

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph appearing at page 2, lines 4-16, with the following amended paragraph:

In particular, as to the bovine leukemia virus (BLV), which has the gene pX that regulates virus proliferation in the same manner as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and is a retrovirus most related to HTLV-I, a research group in the United States has reported its relationship with the bovine MHC (BoLA) haplotypes mainly focusing disease resistance; however, its relationship with possibility of onset of the leukemia has not been reported. The ratio of cattle infected by this virus (infection rate in Japan) is 10 to 20%, and 1 to 2% of the infected cattle develops extremely malignant endemic bovine leukemia to die after a long latent period of 10 to 15 years. Therefore, economic loss of stockbreeders caused by the virus is very serious. If a possibility of the onset of cattle after BLV infection can be evaluated by the analysis of bovine MHC (BoLA) haplotypes, it becomes possible to preliminarily select disease resistant cattle for ~~bleeding~~ breeding beforehand, and it is expected that extremely safe cattle breeding can be continued.